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The Art of Travel
旅行的艺术

Newsletter September 2014

SPECIALIST AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

NEW ZEALAND

MOBILE WI-FI 50% OFF LAUNCH SPECIAL

Wholesale customers are enjoying Thrifty's new mobile Wi-Fi product. The pocket-sized 3G mobile unit comes with a 150MB daily allowance to surf, Skype, download and play wherever, all without the worry of a big bill and roaming charges. The compact unit is available at Thrifty's Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch & Queenstown locations now and will be available at Thrifty's Picton location from 1st November 2014. From 1st October, the optional extra will be \$12.50 incl GST per day.

Furthermore, Thrifty has developed a 7 minute road safety video in English, German, French and Chinese to help educate drivers on what's different about driving in New Zealand.

We welcome you to share these helpful videos with your customers prior to departing on their journey to New Zealand.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXUjEOIKGpwaLYcwa9TH-5Q>

WIFI FOR ALL AT DISTINCTION

GUESTS staying at Distinction Wellington, Century City Hotel, Distinction Palmerston North Hotel and Conference Centre, Distinction Rotorua Hotel and Conference Centre and Discovery Settlers Hotel Whangarei now have free high-speed wifi available throughout the properties.

Distinction Hotels' two Te Anau properties will offer free wifi by the end of the year.

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AIRNZ SAFEST AIRLINE IN WORLD, SAY GERMANS

AIRNZ is the safest airline in the world according to Germany-based Jacdec which monitors aviation safety. Its list of 60 carriers places Cathay Pacific, Finnair and Emirates second and third. Qantas is 10th, Virgin Australia 15th, Jetstar 25th, Singapore Airlines 30th and Lion Air 60th.

SIA WELCOMES AIR NZ ALLIANCE APPROVAL

Singapore Airlines has welcomed New Zealand Minister of Tourism's approval of its alliance with Air New Zealand. The decision gives the go-ahead for the proposed alliance which was announced on the 16 January. The alliance will boost flight frequency between New Zealand and Singapore and provide other benefits, like improved connections through their codeshare agreement. As part of the tie-up, Singapore Airlines will operate an Airbus A380 between Singapore-Auckland and Air New Zealand will fly the route again. Operational dates for the beginning of flights will be announced soon.

SKYCITY ANNOUNCES FIVE STAR HOTEL

The SkyCity Entertainment Group has announced it is expanding its entertainment precinct to include a five star hotel and pedestrian lane containing bars, restaurants and boutique shops. This will cover three blocks, says CEO Nigel Morrison. "We believe our new SkyCity hotel will be an important addition to Auckland's tourism infrastructure. This new 300-bed hotel is a major New Zealand tourism project and it will complement other hotels being built in downtown Auckland. Taken together, these developments are a major vote of confidence in Auckland's future as a vibrant, evolving city of international standing," Mr Morrison says.

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AIRSCAPADES IN A DC3

AIRSCAPADES is the description given to a 14-day 3,000ft tour of New Zealand aboard a DC3. Te Anau-based NZ Voyages Ltd is offering to take guests on morning flights to 10 destinations with time to explore on the ground before dinner and luxury accommodation at night. Transfers are by mini bus. Departures are November 28, January 26 and March 2. Rates are \$14,000 with a single supplement of \$2,100. Please let us know should you be interested in this product and we will send the pricing.

LEGALIZATION OF SAME-SEX MARRIAGE GIVES BOOST TO NZ TOURISM

New Zealand's tourism industry has been given a boost by the legislation of gay marriage.

Nearly 1,000 same-sex couples have been married since the passing of the Marriage (Definition of Marriage) Amendment Act one year ago.

The Department of Internal Affairs says provisional figures show 532 of the couples were New Zealanders while 237 were Australian.

"We are seeing continued national and international interest by same sex couples in getting married in New Zealand," says Registrar-General Jeff Montgomery. "Almost 400 overseas couples have come to New Zealand to get married, which is great for our tourism industry."

AUSTRALIA

NEW FACE FOR INDIGENOUS TOURISM IN ARNHAM LAND

The Yolngu people of Australia's Northern Territory have unveiled a new brand identity and a blueprint for their economic future as part of a long-term vision for tourism in Arnhem Land.

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Under the umbrella of the Lirwi Yolngu Tourism Aboriginal Corporation, more than 20 different Yolngu communities have united behind a plan to create a tourism industry that will foster economic independence, strengthen cultural traditions and help boost Australia's tourism profile internationally. Lirwi Tourism's new brand identity is showcased on a new website, www.lirwitourism.com.au, which acts as a gateway to tourism in Arnhem Land and its Yolngu communities. Lirwi is preparing to operate regular tours to multiple homelands and specialist tours for women. These will operate from the fourth quarter of 2014.

AUSSIE TOURISM BOOMING

AUSTRALIA has had its strongest growth in international visitors in nine years, with arrivals projected to grow more than five percent annually over the next three years according to the latest Tourism and Hotel Market Outlook report. It shows international visitors grew 8.2 percent over the year to May, driven by a 9.4 percent increase in leisure travel. Arrivals from China grew 11.9 percent, from the UK also 11.9 percent, although having fallen almost 20 percent over the previous six years. At the same time arrivals from the US jumped 9.1 percent.

AUSTRALIA SUCCESSFUL IN LURING HIGH-YIELD TOURISTS

Australia's international tourism campaign has been so successful in luring Chinese and other high-yield tourists that it is likely to remain in place for at least another seven years.

The "There is nothing like Australia" slogan, launched three years ago, may not be as catchy or controversial as Lara Bingle's "so where the bloody hell are you?" advertisements, but it is doing the trick, according to Tourism Australia chairman Geoff Dixon.

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The campaign is skewed towards high yield markets, like China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore.

The number of Chinese visitors to Australia over the past 12 months topped 750,000 and collectively they spent more than \$5 billion, making China, Australia's fastest growing and most valuable inbound tourism market.

MELBOURNE WORLD'S MOST LIVEABLE CITY FOURTH YEAR IN A ROW

Melbourne has been named the world's most liveable city, according to the Economist Intelligence Unit's Global Liveability Index.

LORD HOWE ISLAND IS "JUST PARADISE"

A new tourism campaign has been launched, portraying the natural environment of Lord Howe Island as "Just Paradise". "A World Heritage Listed destination, Lord Howe Island is known for its outstanding beauty, pristine Marine Park and the lush greenery of Mt Gower, all of which feature in the new Just Paradise campaign," NSW Tourism Minister Stoner said.

SOUTH PACIFIC

SPTO ANNOUNCES SOUTH PACIFIC TOURISM EXCHANGE 2015 DATES

Pen in the dates June 19-20, 2015 on your South Pacific tourism activity calendar. Following a successful South Pacific Tourism Exchange 2014 in Auckland this year, the South Pacific Tourism Organisation has confirmed the dates for SPTe 2015 this time across the Tasman to Melbourne in Australia.

FIJI LINK ADDS ANOTHER FLIGHT BETWEEN SUVA AND TAVEUNI

Fiji Link has added another direct flight between

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Suva and Taveuni, boosting capacity to the Garden Island from the Capital by 50%. Starting September 13th, passengers will be able to take a new (third) direct flight on Saturdays.

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